

Proposal on National Adaptation Plans African Group

This note provides background elements and information on current discussions in the UNFCCC regarding “national adaptation plans”, as basis for further elaboration of a submission on this topic. Attached is a range of supporting materials including selected proposals by other UNFCCC Parties as well as relevant analysis.

The note provides summary information on:

1. Mandate
2. Proposals
3. Relevant Materials

1. Mandate

In light of Article 4.4 of the Convention, which requires developed countries to?

[a] assist the developing country Parties that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change in meeting the full costs of adaptation to those adverse effects.

Article 4.9 also requires that:

The Parties shall take full account of the specific needs and special circumstances of the least developed countries in their actions with regard to funding and transfer of technology.

Decision 1/CP.16 (Cancun) decided to establish a process in order to:

Enable least developed country Parties to formulate and implement national adaptation plans, building upon their experience in preparing and implementing national adaptation programmes of action, as a means of identifying medium- and long-term adaptation needs and developing and implementing strategies and programmes to address those needs;¹

And invited:

Other developing country Parties to employ the modalities formulated to support the above-mentioned national adaptation plans in the elaboration of their planning effort referred to in paragraph 14 (a) above;²

2. Proposals

(a) The process to enable least developed country Parties to formulate and implement national adaptation plans, building upon their experience in preparing and implementing NAPAs;

- The process to formulate and implement NAPs shall be country driven, following the priorities identified by the Countries themselves.
- The process to enable the formulation and implementation of NAPs should be guided, directed and supported by the Adaptation Committee. The Adaptation Committee may provide information, analysis and review on NAPs as well as serving as a forum for information sharing.
- The Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) should continue to provide

¹ Para 15

² Para 16

expertise and advice to LDCs during the formulation and implementation of their NAPs and as an important source of information for the Adaptation Committee.

- The formulation and implementation of NAPs will consider the outcomes from different bodies under the Convention, including recommendations of the NWP.
- The formulation and implementation of NAPs will also require increase in research on means to raise awareness, provide information and conduct endogenous research such that LDCs have improved capacity to develop NAPs that reflect adaptation priorities and are implementable by local institutions and peoples.
- In order to successfully formulate and implement NAPs, developing countries require support for capacity building to perform important functions, including but not limited to:
 - Consultation - to be effective consultations these will be bottom up, designed by local communities and affected peoples; participatory with appropriate notice, access provisions, diverse media for inputs and outputs; multi-stakeholder in their targeting; and geographically diverse.
 - Baseline Vulnerability Assessments – to be accurate in determining particular areas of vulnerability and their integration into broader sustainable development frameworks.
 - Promotion of community based projects – to avoid top-down imposed policy responses that fail to serve the affected communities and risk compounding dislocative effects of climate impacts.

(b) The modalities and guidelines for least developed country Parties and other developing country Parties to employ the modalities formulated to support national adaptation plans.

- All modalities and guidelines for the employment of support must be based on the principles and provisions of the Convention to ensure the fulfillment of Art 4.4 and Art 4.9
- The principal modality necessary for the formulation of NAPs is the scaling up of support provided by Annex II parties in line with the provisions of the Convention, to be adequate to the needs of developing countries, including through contributions by Annex II parties to the Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund, LDCF, SCCF and other relevant financial mechanisms to ensure that there is sufficient finance for LDCs and other developing countries to formulate and implement NAPs.
- Modalities may draw upon experiences with NAPAs and thus ensure that:
 - There are no long delays between approval and the delivery of funds;
 - Processes, procedures and forms are not substantially altered after their establishment;
 - Countries retain flexibility to revise NAPs as circumstances require;
 - Clustering of projects and programmatic approaches can receive finance;
 - Participatory approach throughout the process, consistently working with stakeholders and civil society, including women's groups ;
 - Co-financing requirements are removed.
- Guidelines for finance mechanisms (across institutions and funds) must ensure that provision for adaptation is equal to that for mitigation in developing countries. There is also a need to ensure that the future modalities of the Green Climate Fund complement activities supported by the AF, LDCF and SCCF. Further work should be undertaken to ensure that support is provided in a timely, appropriate manner without unnecessary duplication or extra bureaucratic procedures, particularly in relation to disbursement agencies.
- Modalities to enable technology transfer and capacity building to develop NAPs will be critical for their effective formulation. These may include revision of intellectual

property rights and the sharing of knowledge and expertise to provide, among others, needed capacity building similar to that listed above.

- Modalities and guidelines on the monitoring and evaluation of Annex II parties' assessed contributions to relevant funds and of technology for the support of NAPs are required to ensure the sufficient scale of resources is available. Guidelines governing funds should make a clear delineation of funding in the AF sourced through CERs from the CDM.